GUY-SAN AND VILMA-SAN ...

THEY BOTH DIIIIED!!

Y-YOU LITTLE ...!!

CLANG

UWAAAHN!!

ACT-74
THE NAKAMACHIS' DECISION

GEEH...

CRASH

ACT 74 —
THE NAKAMACHIS' DECISION

WOOSHH

MASARU!

...I SEE, SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED...

GACHUNK

GACHUNK

CLUNK

GUY-SAN AND VILMA-SAN... I COULDN'T SAVE THEM...

GACHUNK

CLUNK

YOU WENT THROUGH A LOT... MASARU...

MASTER ...

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT...

GUY... THAT POMPOUS BASTARD... HE DID IT FOR OUR SAKE...

AND VILMA... SHE WAS SUCH A GREAT BIG SIS...

SEE? WE TOLD YOU SO! LET'S CALL IT QUITS!!

NOBODY CAN WIN AGAINST THOSE AUTOMATA!

THAT'S RIGHT! WE'LL ALL BE KILLED AT THIS RATE, AND THE ONLY THING ARRIVING AT THE LAUNCH SITE WILL BE AN EMPTY TRAIN!!

HEY, NAKAMACHI, LET'S RUN AWAY! I BET THE BARKING GEEZER DOESN'T WANT TO DIE, EITHER!

LET'S STOP THE TRAIN AND HIDE SOME-WHERE!

THAT'S RIGHT, THE DOLLS MIGHT GIVE US A PASS IF IT'S ONLY US! THEY EVEN GOT VILMA! NO ONE WILL LAUGH AT US FOR RUNNING AWAY!

YEAH! IT'S UP TO US TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH OUR LIVES!!

BUT DON'T GO SAYING ANYTHING!

HOLD IT, MASARU. MAYBE YOU WERE BUSY PLAYING THE HERO BEHIND OUR BACKS AND ALL...

NAOTA-SAN, MITSUUSHI-SAN...

!

SORRY...

SORRY, MITSUUSHI, NAOTA...

...SORRY, LET ME PASS THROUGH... I NEED TO DELIVER ARLEQUIN TO SHIROGANE...

がらがら SLIDE SLIDE

O-OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE...

I NEVER WANTED YOU GUYS TO DO ANYTHING DANGEROUS, ANYWAY...

CLATTER ガタッ

HUH?

THE SAME GOES FOR YOU, MASARU.

WAIT, WHY ARE YOU APOLO-GIZING?!

AH ...?

W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I CAN'T LET YOU GO TO SHIROGANE UNTIL IT'S ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

JUST FIVE YEARS BEFORE, THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS WAS HAVING A STREAK OF SUCCESS... IT HAD 70 TROUPE MEMBERS, AND YOU EARNED UP TO 30 MILLION YEN IN A SINGLE LOCATION.

I-I'M AWARE...

仲町サーカス

YOU TWO JOINED THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS AFTER EVERYTHING HAD HAPPENED...

HEY!

BEFORE THAT... YOU KNOW THE KIND OF SITUATION WE WERE IN, RIGHT...?

HOCKING!!
THE ROCK-EATER CIRCUS
ARTIST WHO SURVIVED BY
EATING HUMAN CORPSES

RUMOR SPREAD THAT YOU SURVIVED BY EATING THE CORPSES OF THE OTHER PASSENGERS.

...AND ONLY YOU SURVIVED...

BUT THEN, THERE WAS THAT INCIDENT WHERE THE PRIVATE BUS YOU WERE RIDING FELL INTO THE BOTTOM OF A VALLEY...

AMONG THE ONES YOU ATE, THERE WERE A MOTHER AND HER CHILD. APOLOGIZE!

THE CORPSES HAD TOOTH MARKS ON THEM.

WE WON'T TAKE THAT AS AN EXCUSE JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE KNOWN AS A ROCK-EATER IN THE CIRCUS!

THOSE WERE MADE BY WILD ANIMALS ...

FLASH パシャ

FLASH パシャ

I ONLY ATE ROCKS!

PLEASE, STOP THIS.

EVEN NOW... I CAN UNDERSTAND POPS' FEELINGS AT THE TIME...

IT HADN'T EVEN BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE OUR MOTHER'S PASSING WHEN THAT HAPPENED.

I MEAN, NORI AND I WERE ABANDONED AS KIDS. MS. NAKAMACHI ADOPTED US.

THAT'S WHY POPS COULDN'T KEEP IT TOGETHER WHEN HE HEARD THAT IN FRONT OF US.

...THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS LOST POPULARITY EACH PASSING DAY.

AFTER HE PUNCHED THE REPORTER AND WAS CHARGED WITH ASSAULT...

UWAH!

UWAH!

PROTESTERS STARTED SHOWING UP AT THE VENUES.

DON'T GO THERE, THE MAN-EATER RINGMASTER IS INSIDE.

LOOK, IT'S A NEW FRIEND!

HEY... COME ON, CHEER ON US!

GO AWAY, CIRCUS OF HORRORS!

FWP ハハハ FWP ハハハ

THUD THUD

YOU'RE SCARING THE CHILDREN!

SORRY 'BOUT THAT...

AND THEN, PAPA TOOK IN THOSE MEMBERS TO LIVEN UP THE STRAW CIRCUS EVEN MORE.

WELL, THERE WAS REALLY NOTHING YOU COULD DO ABOUT IT.

AFTER THAT, THE TROUPE MEMBERS LEFT, AND THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS WENT BANKRUPT.

BUT WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT...?

KEH, SO YOU DID IT BECAUSE OF NORI AND HIRO... I WON'T SAY ANYTHIN' ELSE.

BESIDES, IT'S MY FAULT FOR NOT LISTENING TO HOUAN TELLING ME TO STOP AND PUNCHING THE REPORTER.

OF COURSE, IT WAS ALL TO EARN MONEY SO THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS COULD MAKE A COME-BACK.

WE WORKED ON THEM AS TEMPORARY PERFORMERS.

AFTER THAT, THESE TWO WENT SALES PROMOTING... TO WORK ON OTHER CIRCUSES.

I HAVE MORE CHORES FOR YOU LATER.

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO CLEAN THE DOG'S CRAP.

I CAN'T WAIT FOR THEM TO CUT OUT YOUR ACT.

HEY, NAKAMACHI.

NATURALLY, WE WERE ALL DOWN IN THE DUMPS EVEN WHEN WE CAME HOME.

POPS WAS ALSO DOING HIS BEST AS A DAILY WORKER, SO WE COULDN'T COMPLAIN.

WE WONDERED WHAT WOULD BECOME OF US AT THAT RATE...

WE ALL SLEPT IN SUCH A CRAMPED SPACE, TOO...

AND THEN...

YOU TWO CAME TO OUR PLACE.

PAT

ぽん

CLUNK ガタゴトン GACHUNK

HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN SINCE WE LAST LAUGHED?

FUSAE...

SHIRO-GANE...

MASARU ...

SOMETIMES WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A BIG HASSLE, TOO.

TO BE FRANK, WE WERE BARELY GETTING THROUGH...

WE STARTED FEELING LIKE WE COULD DO THINGS THE RIGHT WAY, LITTLE BY LITTLE.

OVER TIME...

BUT...

WE STARTED LAUGHING AGAIN...

AND, BEFORE WE NOTICED IT...

SHE EVENTUALLY BECAME LIKE A MOTHER FOR THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS.

MASARU, YOU WERE LIKE OUR CHEEKY LITTLE BROTHER.

AND SHIRO-GANE...

OUR LOVE FOR HER IS OUT OF THIS WORLD!

EVEN NOW WE'RE TOTALLY HEAD-OVER-HEELS FOR HER!

GRRR!

WEREN'T YOU GUYS HEAD-OVER-HEELS FOR SHIROGANE?

AFTER WE SAW HER MEMORIES...

...BUT...

SHI-RO-GA-NE!

SHI-RO-GA-NE!

IT'S AW-FUL ...

THIS ...

WHEN I SAW SHIROGANE'S MEMORIES, I REALIZED THOSE WORDS WEREN'T A LIE. THAT... WAS JUST TOO MUCH...

...AS A "TOOL" WHO COULD ONLY DO ONE THING...

WHEN WE FIRST MET, SHE REFERRED TO HERSELF...

...HER MEMORIES WERE FILLED WITH NOTHIN' BUT GEARS STAINED WITH HER OWN BLOOD.

MASARU, UP UNTIL SHE MET YOU...

SHE BELIEVED THAT WAS HER DUTY.

SHE WAS INDIFFERENT TO GIRLY STUFF LIKE CLOTHES AND MAKE-UP. SHE WAS SOLELY DEVOTED TO FIGHTIN' THE DOLLS, AND LIVIN' AS A CIRCUS PERFORMER.

SHE NEVER DID ANYTHIN' CHILDISH LIKE PLAYIN' HOUSE...

...BECAME A PART OF HER MEMORIES...

AROUND THE SAME TIME THAT YOU AND THAT MAN...

BUT...

SHE... WASN'T HUMAN...

SHIROGANE'S MEMORIES STARTED TO GAIN COLOR.

WHAT'S MORE, IT WAS ONLY THE MEMORY OF A FEW DAYS, BUT SHE MUST HAVE RECALLED THEM HUNDREDS, MAYBE THOUSANDS OF TIMES.

AND THEN, COMES THE MEMORY OF A SINGLE MAN...

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT...?

FOR 90 YEARS... THIS WOMAN WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A TOOL... FIGHTING LONGER THAN ANY SOLDIER EVER WILL...

WE SAW EVERYTHING... AND AFTER WE DID...

HER OTHER MEMORIES HAD NONE OF THE SAME AMOUNT OF SPARKLE TO THEM.

SHE MUST REALLY CHERISH THEM...

...IS BECAUSE WE AREN'T HERE FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD. WE'RE HERE FOR OUR OWN SELFISH REASONS.

MITSUUSHI, NAOTA, THE REASON I APOLOGIZED TO YOU...

THERE'S NO WAY WE WOULDN'T WANNA LEND SHIROGANE A HAND!

HE'LL ASK HOW TO STOP THE ZONAPHA SYNDROME, AND HE WON'T BE COMING BACK.

THAT'S WHY WE'RE DOING THIS FOR SHIRO-GANE.

THAT ROOKIE WHO SHIROGANE LOVES SO MUCH IS ABOUT TO BE LAUNCHED ON A ROCKET TO FACELESS' SPACE STATION.

HEHEH... HEHEHEH... DO YOU GUYS HAVE A SCREW LOOSE? YOU'RE RISKING YOUR LIVES JUST BECAUSE OF THAT...?

...BY PROTECTING THIS TRAIN.

WE'RE BUYING HER AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE TOGETHER WITH THAT MAN...

NARUMI-NIICHAAAN!

AH, WAIT, MASARU!

WELL... YEAH.

TAP TAP

ウ!! ウ!!

DO YOU LIKE KARAKURI CIRCUS? DO YOU HAVE SCANLATION EXPERIENCE?

WE NEED YOUR HELP

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

TYPESETTERS

AND

REDRAWERS

JOIN OUR SERVER IF YOU WANT TO HELP:
DISCORD.GG/WEHERS9CRS